



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES
251 CAUSEWAY STREET, Suite 500
BOSTON, MA 02114**

REQUEST FOR RESPONSE (RFR)

RFR File: AEEP-05

FOR

**AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Fiscal Year 2005**

FOR

**THE PURCHASE OF MATERIALS TO INSTALL BEST AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ON
FARMS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

RESPONSES DUE DATE NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM on NOVEMBER 26, 2004 AND APRIL 1, 2005

Purchasing Department: Department of Agricultural Resources

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Email: susan.phinney@state.ma.us

RFR File Name/Title: AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

RFR File Number: AEEP-05

Procurement Team Leader / RFR Contact Person: Susan Phinney

Procurement Management Group/Category: Professional Services

REQUEST FOR RESPONSE

SECTION A.

1. PURPOSE OF PROCUREMENT:

The purpose of the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) is to assist Massachusetts' farmers in addressing areas on their farms that impact or could impact the natural resources of the Commonwealth. Specific concerns are air and water resources. In the past AEEP focused on providing an incentive for farmers to adopt water quality and water conservation best management practices. This year AEEP will include incentives to help farmers contribute to climate protection efforts. Actions which improve energy efficiency and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions on farms will be considered for funding

There are two types of projects that will be considered for funding:

1. installation of best management practices that are identified in this Request For Response
2. purchase of herbicide and insecticide resistant field corn seed.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES) invites farmers, including shellfish growers, in the Commonwealth who are interested in installing practices to improve water quality, water conservation or air quality, to submit an application for funding.

2. ACQUISITION METHOD

Fee For Service

3. SINGLE OR MULTIPLE CONTRACTORS FOR CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

Multiple Contractors

4. SINGLE OR MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS MAY CONTRACT UNDER THIS RFR:

Single. Only Procuring Department may contract under this RFR

5. TOTAL ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACTS

Initial Contract Duration: 1 Year (July 1,2004 – June 30,2005) maximum obligation of \$24,000

Options to Renew : 2, 1 year options to renew

Options to Renew not to exceed: 1 year each

6. TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES FOR TOTAL ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACT(S):

Estimated Value of Procurement: **Approximately \$250,000**

 x Contracts will have a Maximum Obligation Amount.

The approximately \$250,000 will be allocated in the following manner:

- ✓ \$10,000 will be reserved for New Entry Farmers.

- ✓ \$10,000 will be reserved for farmers/growers interested in buying herbicide and insecticide tolerant field corn seed and participating in a research study directed at developing ways for farmers to decrease pesticide and thereby, improving water quality. Limited training will be provided free to participants.
- ✓ \$15,000 will be reserved for licensed shellfish growers who seek to implement best management practices that are identified within this RFR (Section E) that provide environmental benefit as suggested by the publication “Best Management Practices for the Shellfish Culture Industry in Southeastern Massachusetts”.
- ✓ \$15,000 will be reserved for growers who want to install activities that improve air quality.
- ✓ **\$200,000 will be open for all other eligible Massachusetts farmers/growers.**

If any of the funds set aside as reserves are not committed to these group of farmers/growers, the remaining funds will be allocated for use by the larger applicant pool.

A sample listing of activities that have been funded in the past through AEEP funds are included in this RFR.

Round I will award approximately \$200,000 and will include eligible construction projects. Round II will award approximately \$50,000.

7. INDICATE CONTRACT AND PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

There are four categories of commercial farmers/growers located in Massachusetts who are eligible apply:

1. Farmers/growers who have the potential to impact natural resources (water, soil, air),
2. Those who are licensed by the Commonwealth to grow molluscan bivalve species (American oyster, Northern quahog) (shellfish growers),
3. New Entry Farmers (people who have been farming 0 to 10 years on existing farmland); and,
4. Commercial horse operations that generate \$2,500 or more in annual income from the horse component of the farm (i.e. not the raising of feed).

Farmers/growers (excluding shellfish growers) who meet any of these criteria are eligible if they:

1. Actively farm at least five acres, or
2. Have at least three acres in bog production ,or
3. Have at least 5,000 square feet under greenhouse production,

AND

4. Have proof of a written and updated natural resources conservation plan that is approved by AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES at the time of the funding award. (Call AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES for more details at 617-626-1772). Greenhouse and flower growers and shellfish growers are excluded from this requirement.

PESTICIDE REDUCTION RESEARCH STUDY: all corn farmers/growers with an interest are encouraged to apply.

Qualification requirements:

1. Grow field (silage) corn on at least 10 to 100 acres.
2. Given acreage must have been in non- genetically modified corn for at least three years.
3. Preference is for growers who have not previously grown genetically modified corn.

NOT ELIGIBLE:

1. Applications from farmers who are out of compliance or in review for compliance with any Massachusetts state or local environmental laws or regulations.
2. Land being leased/used by farmers with a conservation restricted that is not held by the Commonwealth. (For example, land owned by a town or non-profit organization is not eligible.)
3. Applications from individuals or groups failing to meet regulatory or reporting requirements from previous Agricultural Resources Standard Contracts and/or assistance programs.

Note: New, large construction project (manure storage, for example) might not be funded because of the grant's short timeframe for the project's completion (by June 30, 2005). Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis for these projects.

Performance Criteria: Applications are evaluated on the following criteria: (Shellfish growers excluded*)

1. Farms located within a Zone I, Zone II, Zone A or B or a high yielding Aquifer.
2. Potential impact on public water supplies (Zone I, Zone II, Zone A or B, Aquifers).
3. Existence of stream or wetlands impacted by farmyard runoff.
4. Extent to which activity conserves water.
5. Extent to which activity improves water quality
6. Extent to which activity improves air quality
7. Confirmation by Susan Phinney, Project Coordinator, that there is a need for the activity.
8. Ability to complete the project on or before June 30, 2005.

Additional points will be awarded to:

1. Farms located within an Outstanding Resource Area (ORW) or and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
2. Farms with an agricultural restriction under Agricultural Resources' Agricultural Preservation Restriction program.
3. Farms currently participating in the Farm Viability Enhancement Program.
4. Farms currently participating in the Cranberry Viability Enhancement Program.
5. Innovative projects that conserve water and/or improve water quality.

6. Farmers proposing the purchase of pesticide storage cabinets or gas/diesel fuel containment structures.

7. Farmers proposing the purchase of fuel-efficient motors, irrigation pumps or alternative energy system pumps (solar, for example) as replacement for equipment that is currently in use, which improves water and air quality.

Note: Preference will be given to those farmers who have not been awarded AEEP funds in the past.

Pesticide Reduction Research Study Participants

Priority will be given to farmers who have fields where genetically modified corn seed has not previously been planted.

*Shellfish Growers

Considering the unique characteristics of shellfish growing enterprises, applications from shellfish growers are evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Extent to which the response addresses the installation, implementation or incorporation of the “Best Management Practices for the Shellfish Culture industry in Southeastern Massachusetts” (SEMAC, 2004). To receive a copy contact Southeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center c/o Barnstable County Cooperative Extension at 508-362-2511 or call Agricultural Resources at 617-625-1730 (Scott Soares).
2. Extent to which the response justifies the proposed activities in the context of environmental benefit to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
3. Special consideration will be given to proposals that address the implementation of any or all of the specific best management practices that are identified in Section E. in this RFR

8. PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Either an AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES and/or NRCS staff will evaluate the funded contractual activity prior to full reimbursement. Work will be checked for satisfactory completion and compliance to standards. Spot inspections may be conducted at the Department’s discretion on all work for the life of the project according to USDA guidelines.

9. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES: An Application/Response is attached and must be completed and delivered to Agricultural Resources by the response date deadline.

10. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES:

Applications that are sent by fax or electronically will NOT be accepted.

There are two (2) response due dates to submit a completed Response/Application:

1. ROUND 1 = US Postal Service date stamp no later than November 26, 2004 or hand delivered to Agricultural Resources by 4:00pm. Completed Response/Applications received but not funded in Round 1

will be considered for funding in Round 2. Construction projects will only be considered in Round 1 due to the short time frame for implementation.

2. ROUND 2 = US Postal Service date stamp no later than April 1, 2005 or hand delivered to Agricultural Resources by 4:00pm. Construction projects will **not** be considered in Round 2 due to the short time frame for implementation.

Please complete and return the Response/Application to:

SUSAN PHINNEY, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, 251 CAUSEWAY STREET, # 500, BOSTON, MA 02114
for consideration.

Hand-delivered the Applications must be addressed to *SUSAN PHINNEY, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, 251 CAUSEWAY STREET, # 500, BOSTON, MA 02114* in a sealed envelope.

11. RFR ATTACHMENTS to be completed

The submitters of applications/responsive proposals that have been selected for contract development will be required to complete, execute and return some or all of the following documents: (Forms are available via the State Internet site <http://www.comm-pass.com>)

- 1. Commonwealth Terms and Conditions.** If the Commonwealth Terms and Conditions has been executed and filed as a result of a previous contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, vendors selected for contract development will be required to indicate this in your Response. The Commonwealth Terms and Conditions shall be incorporated by reference into any Contract for Commodities and Services executed pursuant to this RFR. A Bidder is required to execute the Commonwealth Terms and Conditions only once.
- 2. Verification of Taxation Reporting Information (W-9) Form.**
- 3. Commonwealth Standard Contract.**
- 4. Northern Ireland Notice and Certification.**
- 5. Electronic Funds Transfer Form (EFT). (Optional)**

RFR SPECIFICATIONS

In general, most of the required contractual stipulations are referenced in the Standard Contract Form and the Commonwealth Terms and Conditions (either version). However, the following RFR provisions must appear in all Commonwealth competitive procurements conducted under 801 CMR 21.00:

REQUIRED RFR PROVISIONS

The terms of 801 CMR 21.00: Procurement of Commodities and Services (and 808 CMR 1.00: Compliance, Reporting and Auditing for Human and Social Services, if applicable) are incorporated by reference into this RFR. Words used in this RFR shall have the meanings defined in 801 CMR 21.00 (and 808 CMR 1.00, if applicable). Additional definitions may also be identified in this RFR. Unless otherwise specified in this RFR, all communications, responses, and documentation must be in English, all measurements must be provided in feet, inches, and pounds and all cost proposals or figures in U.S. currency. All responses must be submitted in accordance with the specific terms of this RFR. No electronic responses may be submitted in response to this RFR.

Bidder Communication. Bidders are prohibited from communicating directly with any employee of the procuring department except as specified in this RFR, and no other individual Commonwealth employee or representative is authorized to provide any information or respond to any question or inquiry concerning this RFR. Bidders may contact the contact person for this RFR in the event this RFR is incomplete or the bidder is having trouble obtaining any required attachments electronically through Comm-PASS.

Reasonable Accommodation. Bidders with disabilities or hardships that seek reasonable accommodation, which may include the receipt of RFR information in an alternative format, must communicate such requests in writing to the contact person. Requests for accommodation will be addressed on a case by case basis. A bidder requesting accommodation must submit a written statement, which describes the bidder's disability and the requested accommodation to the contact person for the RFR. The PMT reserves the right to reject unreasonable requests.

Public Records. All responses and information submitted in response to this RFR are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L., Chapter 66, Section 10, and to Chapter 4, Section 7, Subsection 26. Any statements in submitted responses that are inconsistent with these statutes shall be disregarded.

Best Value Selection and Negotiation. The PMT may select the response(s), which demonstrates the best value, overall, including proposed alternatives that will achieve the procurement goals of the department. The PMT and a selected bidder, or a contractor, may negotiate a change in any element of contract performance or cost identified in the original RFR or the selected bidder's or contractor's response which results in lower

costs or a more cost effective or better value than was presented in the selected bidder's or contractor's original response.

Costs. Costs, which are not specifically identified in the bidder's response, and accepted by a department as part of a contract, will not be compensated under any contract awarded pursuant to this RFR. The Commonwealth will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders responding to this RFR.

Comm-PASS. This RFR has been distributed electronically using the Comm-PASS system. RFR attachments that are referenced will be found either as a separate .pdf file along with the RFR, or are found in the "Forms and Information" section at: (<http://www.comm-pass.com/comm-pass/forms.html>). Bidders are solely responsible for obtaining and completing required attachments that are identified in this RFR and for checking Comm-PASS for any addenda or modifications that are subsequently made to this RFR or attachments. The Commonwealth and its subdivisions accept no liability and will provide no accommodation to bidders who fail to check for amended RFRs and submit inadequate or incorrect responses. Bidders are advised to check the "last change" field on the summary page of RFRs for which they intend to submit a response to ensure that they have the most recent RFR files. Bidders may not alter (manually or electronically) the RFR language or any RFR component files. Modifications to the body of the RFR, specifications, terms and conditions, or which change the intent of this RFR are prohibited and may disqualify a response.

Northern Ireland Notice and Certification. All bidders must complete the Northern Ireland Notice and Certification form to satisfy M.G.L. c.7 section 22C, which states that no state agency may procure commodities or services from any bidder employing ten (10) or more employees in an office or other facility located in Northern Ireland unless the bidder certifies through the notice and certification form that if it employs ten or more employees in Northern Ireland, a) the bidder does not discriminate in employment, compensation or the terms, conditions and privileges of employment on account of religious or political belief, b) the bidder promotes religious tolerance within the workplace and the eradication of any manifestations of religious and other illegal discrimination and, c) the bidder is not engaged in the manufacture, distribution or sale of firearms, munitions, including rubber or plastic bullets, tear gas, armored vehicles or military aircraft for use or deployment in any activity in Northern Ireland.

Subcontracting Policies. Prior approval of the department is required for any subcontracted service of the contract. Contractors are responsible for the satisfactory performance and adequate oversight of its subcontractors. Subcontractors are required to meet the same state and federal financial and program reporting requirements and are held to the same reimbursable cost standards as contractors.

Affirmative Market Program.

Massachusetts Executive Order 390 established a policy to promote the award of state contracts in a manner that develops and strengthens Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) and resulted in the Affirmative Market Program in Public Contracting. As a result, M/WBEs are strongly encouraged to submit responses to this RFR, either as prime vendors, subcontractors, joint venture partners or other type of business partnerships.

Non-certified bidders are strongly encouraged to develop creative initiatives to help foster new business relationships with M/WBEs within the primary industries affected by this RFR. In order to satisfy the compliance of this section and encourage bidder's participation of AMP objectives, the Affirmative Market Program Plan for large procurements greater than \$50,000 must be evaluated at 10% or more of the total evaluation. Once an AMP Plan is submitted, negotiated and approved, the agency will then monitor the contractor's performance, and use actual expenditures with SOMWBA certified contractors to fulfill their own AMP expenditure benchmarks. M/WBE participation must be incorporated into and monitored for all types of procurements regardless of size, however, submission of an AMP Plan is mandated only for large procurements over \$50,000. Agencies may require some or all of the following components as part of the Affirmative Market Program Plan submitted by bidders: Sub-contracting with certified M/WBE firms,

Growth and Development activities to increase M/WBE capacity, Ancillary use of certified M/WBE firms, Past Performance or information of past expenditures with certified M/WBEs. Agencies are encouraged to include

additional incentives for bidders to commit to at least one certified MBE and WBE in the submission of AMP plans.

A Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Woman Business Enterprise (WBE), M/Non-Profit, or W/Non-Profit, is defined as such by SOMWBA. All certified businesses are required to submit an up to date copy of their State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance (SOMWBA) certification letter. The purpose for this certification is to participate in the Commonwealth's Affirmative Market Program for public contracting. Minority- and Women-Owned firms that are not currently certified but would like to be considered as an M/WBE for the purpose of this RFR should submit their application at least two weeks prior to the RFR closing date. For further information on SOMWBA certification, contact their office at 1-617-727-8692 or via the Internet at mass.gov/somwba.

Affirmative Market Program Subcontracting Policies. Prior approval of the agency is required for any subcontracted service of the contract. Agencies may define required deliverables including, but not limited to, documentation necessary to verify subcontractor commitments and expenditures with Minority- or Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing compliance of subcontracting commitments made in a bidder's Affirmative Market Program (AMP) Plan. Contractors are responsible for the satisfactory performance and adequate oversight of its subcontractors. Subcontractors are required to meet the same state and federal financial and program reporting requirements and are held to the same reimbursable cost standards as contractors.

Estimated Provisions. The Commonwealth makes no guarantee that any commodities or services will be purchased from any contract resulting from this RFR. Any estimates or past procurement volumes referenced in this RFR are included only for the convenience of bidders, and are not to be relied upon as any indication of future purchase levels.

Brand Name or Equal. Unless otherwise specified in this RFR, any reference to a particular trademark, trade name, patent, design, type, specification, producer or supplier is not intended to restrict this RFR to any manufacturer or proprietor or to constitute an endorsement of any commodity or service, and the department may consider clearly identified offers of substantially equivalent commodities and services submitted in response to such reference.

Alternatives. A response which fails to meet any material term or condition of the RFR, including the submission of required attachments, may lose points or be deemed unresponsive and disqualified. Unless otherwise specified, bidders may submit responses proposing alternatives, which provide equivalent, better, or more cost-effective performance than achievable under the stated RFR specifications. These alternatives may include related commodities or services that may be available to enhance performance during the period of the contract. The response should describe how any alternative achieves substantially equivalent or better performance to that of the RFR specifications. The department will determine if a proposed alternative method of performance achieves substantially equivalent or better performance. The goal of this RFR is to provide the best value of commodities and services to achieve the procurement goals of the department. Bidders that propose discounts, uncharged commodities and services or other benefits in addition to the RFR specifications may receive a preference or additional points under this RFR as specified.

Contract Expansion. If additional funds become available during the contract duration period, the department reserves the right to increase the maximum obligation to some or all contracts executed as a result of this RFR or to execute contracts with contractors not funded in the initial selection process, subject to available funding, satisfactory contract performance and service or commodity need.

Inter-Department Purchase. Departments reserve the right to include an option for other departments to purchase services or commodities under the same terms of the contract. Should departments exercise this option, bidders will be required to specify their ability to extend services to other departments and the rates to be used.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services. The department and contractor (s) may negotiate during the contract term to permit the substitution or addition of Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs) when such products become available at a competitive cost and satisfy the department's performance needs. Unless otherwise specified in the RFR, during evaluation of responses, an EPP may be considered best value

even when the price is greater than that of a non-EPP (recommended not to exceed 10% in price).

Bidders are encouraged to submit information to identify any and all environmental attributes of the product or services being procured, even when such attributes are not being required.

Prompt Payment Discounts (PPD). All bidders responding to this procurement are strongly encouraged to participate in the Commonwealth Prompt Payment Discount (PPD) initiative for receiving early and/or on-time payments. PPD benefits both Contractors and the Commonwealth. Contractors benefit by increased, usable cash flow as a result of fast and efficient payments for commodities or services rendered. Participation in the Electronic Funds Transfer initiative further maximizes the benefits with payments directed to designated accounts, thus eliminating the impact of check clearance policies and traditional mail lead time or delays. The Commonwealth benefits because contractors reduce the cost of products and services through the applied discount. Payments that are processed electronically can be tracked and verified through the Comptroller's VendorWeb system. The PPD offering form can be found on the OSD forms page.

Bidders should submit agreeable terms for Prompt Payment Discount offerings using the PPD offering form within their proposal, unless otherwise specified by the PMT. The PMT will review, negotiate or reject the offering as deemed in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

RESPONSE/ APPLICATION Fiscal Year 2005

ROUND 1 DUE NOVEMBER 26, 2004 US POSTAL SERVICE DATE STAMP OR HAND DELIVER BY 4:00PM. Applications received but not funded in Round 1 will be considered for funding in Round 2. Construction projects will be considered *only* in this Round.

ROUND 2 DUE April 1, 2005 US POSTAL SERVICE DATE STAMP OR HAND DELIVER BY 4:00PM

FAX AND ELECTRONIC COPIES OF COMPLETED APPLICATION ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

ALL OF THE INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED or identified as Not Applicable (N/A) TO BE ELIGIBLE. Your application may be returned if it is incomplete.

SECTION A. – APPLICANT INFORMATION

Farm Operator _____ Farm Owner (if different) _____

Farm Name _____ Type of Operation _____

Farm Address _____ Mailing Address (if different) _____
(Site where work will take place)

City/Town _____ City/Town _____

Zip Code _____ Zip Code _____

County _____ Watershed _____

Home Phone _____ Cell/Business Phone _____ Email _____

Acreage Owned _____ Acreage In Production _____

Additional Rented/Leased Crop Land _____ Crops Grown & Acreage _____

Livestock Type: _____ Number: _____ or Density per unit area (Shellfish growers) _____

Are you a New Entry Farmer (farmed 0- 10 years) _____ # of years _____

Do you rent the land or lease where this project will take place? _____

If yes, do you have a written lease on this site? ____ For how many years beyond the date of this application? ____

Who will own the materials purchased by AEEP funds? _____

SECTION A , Continued

Place a check mark by **all** the questions that apply to the land where you intend to use the AEEP funds.

1. My farm has an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR).
(Year enrolled or name of farm when accepted into program _____)
2. My farm has been accepted into or completed the Farm Viability Enhancement Program or the Cranberry Viability Program.
3. I have not previously received AEEP funds.

SECTION B - CONSERVATION PLAN - EXCEPT FOR GREENHOUSE, FLOWER GROWERS AND SHELLFISH GROWERS. SHELLFISH GROWERS MUST COMPLETE SECTION E.

To be eligible for funding you will need

EITHER:

An updated (within the last five years) USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Plan (formerly a Soil Conservation Service Conservation Plan)

OR

You will need to complete and submit a conservation plan that is described in the “On-Farm Strategies To Protect Water Quality” workbook. If you would like a copy of workbook, please call AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (617-626-1772) and request a copy.

Please select **one** answer below:

I do **not** have a conservation plan and therefore, am not eligible for funding.

I have an updated USDA-NRCS Farm Plan (**Do not include the Conservation Plan with your application**)

OR

I completed and **enclosed** a conservation plan from the “On-Farm Strategies To Protect Water Quality” workbook for AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES’s approval.

SECTION C. – ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY AND/OR WATER CONSERVATION CONCERNS

What are the specific *names of the water resources* (stream, pond, town well, etc.) that you are concerned that your farm could potentially impact? (For example, Green River, Cheshire Water Department Well on #2.)

If you have questions about the water resources contact your county NRCS office, your water department or go on-line to MASSGIS. <http://www.state.ma.us/mgis/maps.htm>.

What concerns do you have about your operation that potentially impact water quality?

What concerns do you have about water quantity (conservation) issues on your farm?

How would you address these either of these water or air quality concerns if you received funds from AEEP?

Be specific about the location on the farm where you plan to do the work. (For example, install fencing along South River or install 2 flumes on the End St. bog)

AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

This year AEEP will provide incentives for farmers to advance the goals of the state's Climate Protection Plan. Projects eligible for funding include practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions; renewable energy projects; and projects that lead to greater storage of carbon on agricultural land. Examples of eligible types of projects include: solar panels for running irrigation pumps, planting trees for wind breaks, or upgrading diesel pumps to more energy efficient models.

What concerns do you have about your operation that potentially impact air quality?

How would you address these air quality concerns if you received funds from AEEP?

Be specific about the location on the farm where you plan to do the work

How would the project you propose for funding improve air quality? *Be very specific.*

SECTION D. PESTICIDE REDUCTION RESEARCH STUDY

Agricultural Resources is interested in conducting a study on pesticide use, tillage practices and grower attitudes with field corn genetically modified for insect and herbicide resistance. In exchange for participation in this study, the Department will pay a 30% cost-share for genetically modified corn seed for a single season.

Participants in this study will be required to:

- Provide Agricultural Resources with pesticide use records for three (3) years proceeding the planting of genetically modified corn, and the year during which the genetically modified corn was planted.
- Complete two surveys covering: a) pre-planting of genetically modified seed, b) after harvest of the genetically modified corn and, c) 18 months later. Each survey should not take more than 20 minutes to complete.
- Previous growers of genetically modified corn must be able to provide three years worth of pesticide records for non-genetically modified corn planted on the acreage to be used in this study.

1. Have you ever planted genetically modified corn seed before? YES ____ NO ____

2. How many acres do you want to planted with genetically modifies corn partially funded by Agricultural Resources?

3. Are you willing to complete two surveys during the 3 year project (one about tillage methods and the other about the cost of producing the genetically modified corn)?
YES _____ NO _____

SECTION E. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SHELLFISH GROWERS

Introduction:

Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are identified as voluntary practices that provided environmental benefit and economic incentives for farming operations that implement the practices. Similarly, Aquacultural BMPs can provide a myriad benefits for the public and for the private grower who employs the practices. Unfortunately, Aquaculture BMPs, perhaps as a result of the comparative age of this agricultural sector in the United States, have not been developed as extensively as agricultural BMPs. With this in mind and as a result of the growth of the aquacultural sector in Massachusetts, shellfish aquaculture industry members in partnership with the Southeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center at Barnstable County Cooperative Extension and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources recently developed and published “Best Management Practices for Shellfish Growers in Southeastern Massachusetts” (SEMAC, 2004). This publication suggests a broad range of practices that, when implemented, provide environmental benefit to the Commonwealth as well as economic incentives for the grower. In effort to encourage implementation of Shellfish aquaculture BMPs, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES is soliciting responsive proposals to the FY2005 Agriculture Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) from individuals and/or companies who are licensed by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to grow shellfish in Massachusetts.

Eligible activities:

The following table identifies the BMP category, related environmental benefit and the activities and/or items that may be funded through this solicitation:

<i>BMP category</i>	<i>environmental benefit</i>	<i>fundable item/activity</i>
2-1 Materials, operations and maintenance: sediment management	decrease sedimentation thereby improving survival on and off-site of in and epi faunal organisms, habitat preservation.	1. installation of flotation to predator exclusion netting covering shellfish culture areas.
2-5 Materials, operations and maintenance: use and management of netting	minimizing hazards to marine organisms and navigation in the marine environment	1. Purchase and installation of larger mesh netting to replace smaller mesh that has a higher probability of fouling and tearing. 2. Purchase of equipment to remove biofouling on shellfish culture gear 3. Purchase and installation of net anchoring systems as replacement to lead-line
4-1 Disease prevention and management: Impact of shellfish diseases	Minimizing disease prevalence and disease transmission to wild shellfish populations and adjacent shellfish growing areas	1. costs associated with shellfish disease diagnosis
5-2 Maintenance of environmental quality: minimizing harmful chemical exposures	Minimize and control petrochemicals in the marine environment in effort to avoid exposure of the marine environment to toxic compounds.	1. up to \$2,000 toward the purchase of a 4-cycle outboard motor that is purchased as a replacement to a 2-cycle outboard motor. 2. Purchase of oil absorbent pillows for use in the bilge or in the event of accidental release of petrochemicals

Proposed activities:

1. Please describe the activities/work that will be undertaken to address the objectives of this RFR that are relative to the implementation of Shellfish Aquaculture Best Management Practices.

2. What are the environmental benefit that you anticipate will result from the implementation/installation of the selected BMP(s):

3. Who will conduct the proposed work/activities: (include name address, phone and, if available, email address

SECTION G. LOCATOR MAP - Required.

Enclose a map with your farm boundaries drawn and the exact location of the project described in this application. Use either a town road map or a USGS topography map including the map quadrant name.

By signing this application you give permission for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to review your NRCS Farm Plan if you have one. You also give permission to have a site visit by the AEEP Coordinator which maybe necessary before a funding decision is made. All site visits will be arranged with you in advance. For commercial horse operations, you agree to have available your IRS Tax Schedule C or F to be reviewed by the Coordinator.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

The Department of Agricultural Resources will keep the information in this application confidential to the best of its ability within the bounds of the law. If you are not selected for funding in Fiscal Year 2005, you may request that your application be returned to you by signing on the following line. This will not affect, in any way, your ability to apply to this program again in subsequent years.

I want my application returned to me if not selected. I understand that by doing so, I waive the right to challenge the State's decision not to select me for this program.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

PLEASE BE SURE TO HAVE COMPLETED ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO HAVE YOUR APPLICATION CONSIDERED: *FAX AND ELECTRONIC COPIES OF COMPLETED APPLICATION ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.*

1. Complete every section of the application.
2. Check with NRCS that your Farm Plan is updated **OR**
3. Submit a completed Plan from the "On-Farm to Protect Water Quality" workbook. Your application will be eligible once your workbook plan is approved. (Shellfish growers excluded)
4. Sign the application.
5. Include a property location map.

ROUND 1 DUE NOVEMBER 26, 2004 US POSTAL SERVICE DATE STAMP OR HAND DELIVER BY 4:00PM. Applications received but not funded in Round 1 will be considered for funding in Round 2. Construction projects will be considered *only* in this Round.

ROUND 2 DUE April 1, 2005 US POSTAL SERVICE DATE STAMP OR HAND DELIVER BY 4:00PM

SAMPLE LISTING OF PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY FUNDED BY AEEP

COMMODITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
CRANBERRY	
	FLUMES
	"POP-UP" IRRIGATION HEADS
	IRRIGATION PUMP
	IRRIGATION LINES
DAIRY/LIVESTOCK	
	COMPOST PAD
	HEAVY USE AREA
	ROOF RUNOFF (Gutters, drain)
	MANURE STORAGE PIT
	FENCING & WATERER
	WATER PURIFICATION LIGHT
	SOLAR-POWERED PUMP
VEGETABLE/ORCHARD	
	PESTICIDE STORAGE
	TRICKLE IRRIGATION LINES
	EVERGREEN TREES FOR WIND BREAK
	IRRIGATION PUMP & FILTER

NOTE: AEEP funded projects must use USDA-NRCS Standards and Specifications or manufacturers guidelines for installation standards except for compost pads and pesticide storage sheds. Farmers may use DAR Guidelines when installing these two practices. (Compost and Pesticide Mixing, Loading and Storage Guidelines are on line at www.mass.gov/agr and search under Publications.)